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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

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COUNTRY Bulgaria

DATE DISTR. 25 April 1955

SUBJECT Stalin State Polytechnic University in Sofia

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE

1. The Stalin State Polytechnic University (Derzhavna Politehnika Stalin) was established in 1945 or 1946 and was located on the former site of the State Printing Office which was destroyed by bombs during World War II. ¹ [REDACTED]

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2. Until 1953 or 1954, the university was under the direction of the Committee for Sciences, Arts, and Culture (Komitet za Nauka, Izkustvo, i Kultura - KNIK). After that time, it was placed under the direction of the Ministry of Culture (Ministerstvo na Kulturata). ² Graduates of the university were at the disposal of the Ministry of Culture and were assigned by that ministry to various factories, enterprises, and institutions throughout the country, according to their field of study.

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3. The university had two faculties:

- a. The Machine Construction Division, located in the university proper on Aleksander Nevskiy Square, had the following departments:

- (1) The Mechanical Engineering Department which taught automobile, airplane, and agricultural machinery construction as well as heating techniques.

- (2) The Electrical Engineering Department taught all aspects of high voltage and low voltage currents, such as electrical plants, telephone, telegraph, television, radio, and possibly radar.

- (3) The Industrial Chemistry Department taught both organic and inorganic chemistry. [REDACTED] that this department had been taken out of the Machine Construction Division and set up as an independent division.

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b. The Construction Division, located in one building on Graf Ignatiev Street near Radio Sofia, consisted of the following departments:

- (1) The Surface and Underground Construction Engineering Department
- (2) The Geodesy Department
- (3) The Road and Bridge Construction Engineering Department
- (4) The Architectural Engineering Department

4. In 1952, about 5,500 students, both men and women, were enrolled at the university. Of this total, 2,500 students, 30 per cent of whom were women, were enrolled in the Machine Construction Division. The following is a breakdown of students in the three departments under this division:

- a. Mechanical Engineering Department - 1,000 students (25 per cent were women)
- b. Electrical Engineering Department - 1,000 students (40 per cent were women)
- c. Industrial Chemistry Department - 500 students (50 per cent were women)

Five per cent of the 100 students who specialized in airplane construction were women.

5. In 1952, the Construction Division had a total of about 3,000 students, 40 per cent of whom were women. Source can give no further breakdown of the students in this division. 50X1

6.

The following subjects were taught in the Machine Construction Division: mathematics, physics, chemistry, technical drawing, hydrodynamics, aerodynamics, mechanics (statics, strength of material, and dynamics), machine dynamics, technical thermodynamics, electrical machinery, theory of electricity, heating and ventilation, refrigeration and cooling techniques, steam boilers, steam engines, internal combustion motors, mechanical technology, instrument machinery, heating plants, refrigeration and cooling machines, descriptive geometry, the German and Russian languages, and dialectical materialism. Until 1952, students in the Mechanical Engineering Department chose their specialty after completing the first four semesters. However, since 1953, students have been allowed to choose their specialty at the time they enter the department.

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7. In addition to the subjects listed above, all students, both men and women, were required to take 15 hours of instruction in military sciences each week. Male students took a total of 20 to 25 days of field military training each summer for two years. Female students had only theoretical instruction which ran concurrently with their regular classes.

8. Students were accepted for registration after the successful completion of secondary school, after obtaining personal recommendations and submitting biographical data, and after their political reliability was checked. A statement of political reliability was sent directly to the

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university by the Peoples' City Council. After an examination of the applicant's secondary school certificate and the political reliability statement, the university authorities informed the student that he was permitted to take an entrance examination. The entrance examination was both written and oral and covered subjects studied by the student during his last four years of secondary school. In addition, the student was examined on his knowledge of Communist ideology. In all instances, preference was given to good Communists. When a student had passed all of his entrance requirements, he registered at the beginning of the school term in September, paid his tuition fee, took a physical examination, and began his studies.

9. About 60 per cent of the students at the university received a government stipend of 200 leva per month. However, students who were favored members of the Party received as much as 600 leva per month. Any student who received a government stipend was required to maintain a "B" average in his studies. These students were chosen on the basis of previous scholarship, loyalty to the Party, and social origin.
10. Instruction was intensive. During the first year, 40 hours of lecture and laboratory work were given each week. Thirty-five hours were given each week in the second year and 30 hours in the third and fourth years. In the first semester of the fifth year, students were required to take 15 hours of lectures and laboratory work each week. The second and last semester of the fifth year was devoted to the preparation of the thesis required for graduation.
11. Examinations were held in June, the end of the school year. At the end of the first semester, only quizzes were given. All subsequent examinations were both written and oral. When a student failed an examination in any subject, he could take the examination again in September. If he failed twice, he could take the examination for the third time in January of the next year. Grading was as follows: five was excellent, three passing, and two was failure.
12. To obtain a degree as a mechanical engineer after 11 semesters of instruction and study
 - a. complete a thesis for his diploma in three or four months
 - b. submit his thesis and defend it orally for one hour
 - c. successfully pass oral examinations in dialectical materialism; this examination lasted for about one hour.
13. Although the facilities of the university library were insufficient for the number of students registered, there was no lack of technical books. These books were written in Russian and Bulgarian although there were more in the Russian language than in Bulgarian. Textbooks were sold to the students at very low prices. More than 50 per cent of these books were written in Russian but some were translations of English textbooks. To encourage greater sales of Soviet-published books, special rates were granted. Although the official exchange was 1.70 leva for one ruble, students received a special exchange of 80 stotinki for one ruble.
14. About 10 per cent of the student body lived in student dormitories and had their meals at student cafeterias which served very poor food. Free medical care and medicine could be obtained at the university dispensary and hospital. However, when a student required medical care at home, he was required to pay for the medicine but not for the doctor's visit.

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15. The Party played an active role in the university and formed a basic unit for every five Party members among the student body.

16. Source believes that instruction at the university was good because factory directors constantly praised the theoretical knowledge and the thorough preparation the graduates had received. The only weakness in the university's system was the lack of practical instruction and laboratory work. However, graduates picked this up quickly in the factories and enterprises to which they were assigned. As a rule, graduates never wanted to be sent to isolated communities for an assignment but preferred to be placed in Sofia or in other cities. This was the main complaint of students against the Communist regime, but source claims that this was not new because the same problem occurred before World War II in the case of government-subsidized students. The only specialty in the university which had too many graduates was the field of architecture and many graduates had a difficult time finding jobs as architects.

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17. Source believes that [redacted] the university's enrollment has increased considerably.

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1. [redacted] for the pinpoint location of the Stalin State Polytechnic University.

2. [redacted] for the pinpoint location of the Ministry of Culture.

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